

THE GENDER STUDIES PROJECT

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September
2004

Note From the Director

September, 2004

Welcome (back) to Messiah College and to the Gender Studies Project! This is the second official year of the Gender Studies Project which exists to provide a centralized resource for meeting the needs of students, faculty, and staff, both within the Messiah College community as well as the larger society, through a variety of educational programs, culturally-diverse events, resource opportunities, and other support services all related to gender. We have a number of exciting events planned for the coming year around the theme of biblical equality including lectures, chapels, and bible studies. We encourage you to attend as many of our events as you can! Events will be publicized via our newsletter, listserv, and website as well as Community News, the Intercom, and mass emails.

I also want to invite you to drop by the center to meet both myself and my Student Assistant, Stephanie Craft, during our fall open house in September. All are welcome to become involved with the Project at many levels. For example, students could join any of the organizations listed in our GSP newsletter. There are also opportunities for students, faculty and staff to write for the [GSP newsletter](#), work on a GSP initiative, or even start your own initiative. There is no shortage of ways to make the Gender Studies Project a significant part of your Messiah experience; we are looking forward to meeting you!

Debra Berke

Associate Professor
Family Science and Women's Studies
Director, Messiah College's Gender Studies Project

Initiative Opportunities:

Vocational Mentoring Program: see article on page 3
Women Engineering Students: see description on page 6
Women's Studies Minors: see description on page 6
One in Four: see article on page 2
Gender Studies Project Advisory Board: Board members direct the focus and path of the Project

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Catholic Women Ordination Supporters Respond to New Vatican Letter on Women

August 3, 2004

The Vatican latest statement released on Saturday, July 31, Letter to Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and in the World, demonstrates the Catholic hierarchy dramatic misconceptions of women and understandings of the lived relationships between women and men.

The Vatican letter perpetuates a misunderstanding of feminism as antagonistic and a competition for power. In reality, feminism embraces the Christian value of equality, where all people -- men and women-- are treated with respect, dignity, and value, said Joy Barnes, Executive Director of the *Women Ordination Conference*, a US organization promoting women priests in the Catholic Church. The goal of feminism is not to seek power, but to equalize the current power structures.

Barnes continued, Catholic feminists derive our understanding from the very Gospel teachings of Jesus that call on every Christian to speak out and act on behalf of the poor and oppressed. The church own documents from the Second Vatican Council declare that all discrimination is to be eradicated as contrary to God intent. It is the Church hierarchy that is not fulfilling its true potential of creating a just, loving institution where all people are treated equally.

The document, which condemns the lethal effects of feminism, actually seems to embrace the same ideals that Catholic feminists have been declaring for decades, such as the active collaboration between the sexes and allowing women to have access to positions of responsibility (in the workplace) which allow

them to inspire the policies of nations and to promote innovative solutions to economic and social problems.

The letter assertion of these positive ideals is a step in the right direction and these concepts need to become a reality in the Catholic Church. With its call for active collaboration and access to positions of responsibility to inspire policies it seems as if the Vatican most recent letter has laid out the best argument for women ordination in the Catholic Church! said Barnes.

Calling for equality in the workplace and respect for women choosing to work inside the home is clearly valued by feminists” and Catholic women assert that the same respect should be true for men choosing to work inside the home. Barnes said, Fathers should also be encouraged to be the primary caregiver in the family if this is their gift and call. The ideal should be for both parents to take an active role in rearing children and maintaining a faith-filled, Christian household.

The Vatican is speaking about women, without women voices. If they truly believed in equality they would enlist the perspectives and experiences of Catholic women theologians when issuing a document about women and how women should live their lives.

The Women Ordination Conference (WOC) is the only US-based Catholic organization working solely on the issue of women ordination. WOC, which will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary in 2005, serves as a voice for women in the church and has been one of the leading voices of the Catholic feminist movement in the United States. For more information on WOC contact 703-352-1006 or

Source: www.womensordination.org.

MESSIAH STARTS SEXUAL ASSAULT / RAPE PREVENTION PEER EDUCATION CHAPTER

This past March, over 150 Messiah male students attended the presentation *"How to Help a Sexual Assault Survivor: What Men Can Do"*. This 'for men only' program was presented by 'One in Four', a chapter of specially trained peer educators from the College of William and Mary. According to John Foubert, author and founder, "The Men's Program offers the dual benefit of educating men how to help women recover from a rape experience while lowering men's likelihood of raping." According to research, it's also the most effective male rape and sexual assault prevention program available.

The program was so well received at Messiah that several students expressed interest in starting a chapter of 'One In Four' here. Underwritten by the Gender Studies Project and given oversight by the Office of Community Development, seven Messiah students completed training this past May and were officially chartered by the National Organization of Men's Outreach for Rape Education (NO MORE).

According to their website (www.nomorerape.org) NO MORE is "an organization of men and women, united for the purpose of educating men about rape using the most effective methods shown by scientific research studies. Based on this principle, NO MORE currently encourages groups including colleges, the military, local civic organizations, rape crisis centers, and other similar organizations to use "The Men's Program."

The name "One in Four" has a dual meaning. First, it refers to the nation-wide research study indicating that one in four college women report surviving rape or attempted rape since their 14th birthday. Secondly, it references that the peer educators seek to be the *ones who inform* other men how to help women recover from a rape experience.

The Messiah chapter of "One In Four" will present regularly throughout the academic year. In partnership with the Office of Residence Education, "One in Four" will be presenting the Men's Program in College residences in addition to several alternate chapels. Attendance will be required of all first year male students.

The founding members of the Messiah Chapter of 'One in Four' are Carter Evans, Justin Clements, Erick Webb, Keith Pomerory, Stephen Mattiace, Trevor Diaz and Jeremy Balsbaugh. For more information, check out www.nomorerape.org.

International Glimpse

USAID launched a 3-year program, Growth through Engendering Enterprise (ECOGEE), in September 2002 to help women overcome barriers to business development and regional trade. Since the start, close to 1,000 West African women have benefited from ECOGEE through training programs in Internet and financial management; technical assistance to the West African Businesswomen's Network; and small grants to local women's associations with projects that support women's business development.

October is Work-Life Month

Work-Life includes making the work culture more supportive, adding programs to meet life event needs, ensuring that policies give employees as much control as possible over their lives, and using flexible work practices as a strategy to meet the dual agenda – the needs of both business and employees.

Some issues this movement focuses on are work practices, leave, finances, emotional wellbeing, legal issues, relocation, addiction and recovery, parenting and childcare, and caretaking of older adults. Interested? Check out www.workfamily.com.

Learning From Others...

An initiative of the Career Center and Internship Center, the Vocational Mentoring Program, first took female students in majors traditionally dominated by men and connected them to female alumni with similar career interests. Now in its third year of operation, the program has expanded to include all women in the Schools of Mathematics, Engineering, Management and Business and Health and Natural Sciences. Mentors and mentees meet in an informal setting to discuss their specific fields. Ultimately Project Coordinators, Beth Clark and Deb Hoffman, want the meetings and discussions to focus not just on the details of a particular vocation, but to expand into a genuine Christian mentoring relationship, since some women don't just lack role models in their career field, but Christian role models in their lives.

"I signed up for a mentor to get advice from someone who's already been through what I've been through, to have someone to answer any questions I have along the way," explains Sheena Martin, a sophomore Business Information Systems major. For students like her, the Vocational Mentoring of Christian Women

Program is a blessing. But this initiative doesn't exist to exclude people or turn the few females in the represented fields into a clique. The women who apply for mentors feel like they could benefit from a role model, from the kind words and guidance of someone who really understands. Understanding: that's what the Mentoring Program is really about.

The women who sign up to mentor students are like the Mia Hamms (Olympic Gold medalist) to all the young aspiring female soccer players across the country—someone who proves women can not only hold their own in their fields, but that they can excel. However, these women do more than play a mean game of soccer. They're actually meeting with the women whose shoes they once inhabited: the female representatives (or in some cases, representative) of their major. The mentors impart the knowledge they've received from their struggles and subsequent rewards. They share what it's like as a Christian woman to work in often secular, gender-imbalanced surroundings: how to thrive in the environment and improve it through their presence.

"The mentoring program gives you someone to 'walk' you through the transition from college to work," Martin says, echoing a point made by fellow mentee and senior Human Development and Family Science major Ginger Little. "Because of the majors we are involved in," Little says, "it is often difficult to find other women who can understand your situation and give you advice about it. Being able to discuss things, like balancing a career and family with a woman who is currently engaged in doing so in invaluable."

And the Mentoring Program, funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc., wants to spread its inestimable worth to as many students as it can. There are plans to eventually develop a mentoring program for women in the School of Humanities and School of the Arts. Hoffman and Clark have hopes that the experiences of the students already in the program will extend to all those who participate, that all can reflect the same sentiments as Little: "I've found that the experience is much like having a big sister," she says, "who's been through it all before and can give you the best advice about where to go next."

The Gender Studies Project wants to see **Who I Am** used by the faculty, staff, and students to communicate the multiple gender-related events, discussions, resources, research and issues in our school, our nation, and the world. Please submit your poetry, personal experiences or opinion, suggestions and humor that you would like to share with others to Stephanie Craft, Box 5247 or email GenderStudies@messiah.edu.

Come Visit Us! We are in Hoffman 315 and would love to meet you!

(717) 766-2511 Ext: 7214

THE GENDER STUDIES PROJECT

Events Calendar

Sept. 8, 3-5pm Open House for Gender Studies Project, Women in Ministry Initiative, and the Sider Institute in Hoffman 315 and 316

Sept. 14, 4:30pm Women's Studies Minors Coffee and Tea in Hoffman 315. Come if you have one or are interested in learning more.

Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 27, and Nov. 3 from 7-8pm Bible Study on Biblical Equality led by Rev. Janet Peifer in Hostetter board room. Alternate Chapel credit for students.

Sept. 30, 8:15-9:15am Breakfast with the Provost. Kim Phipps, currently acting President, will share in breakfast and discussion with a small group of students in the Private Dining Room. Please contact the Gender Studies Project to sign up.

Sept. 30 Washington DC Women Hiring Women. A job fair just for women at the Hilton Crystal. www.womenforhire.com

Oct. 2, 10am Breast Cancer Walk on Harrisburg City Island. Gender Studies Project will be leaving at 8:30am to attend, please contact us to register.

Nov. 4, 8:15-9:15am Breakfast with the Provost. Kim Phipps, currently acting President, will share in breakfast and

discussion with a small group of students in the Private Dining Room. Please contact the GSP to sign up.

Until Jan. 9, 2005: Jewish Women's Archives at the Museum of Maryland

Until Mar. 2005: History of Women in Medicine, exhibit at the National Library of Medicine.

Save the Date

Mar. 15: 7-8pm Riegsecker Lecture in Palmer Cinema. Catherine Kroeger a board member of Christians for Biblical Equality will be speaking on Biblical Equality. Students and faculty welcome. If you would like to attend the dinner before the lecture please contact the GSP. Alternate Chapel credit will be given to students who attend the lecture.

Mar. 15-17: *Women in Art* exhibit in Boyer Atrium. If you would like to contribute to this event please contact the GSP.

Apr. 7: Take Back the Night at Shippensburg University

Apr. 26, 6-9pm: Senior Women's Dinner at Grantham Church. If you are interested in helping to plan the dinner please contact Campus Ministries ext. 6017.

The Gender Studies website is up and running! Check it out at www.messiah.edu/gender

- ★ Keep up to date with the Event Calendar and/or submit events that you know of
- ★ Search the database for great resources
- ★ Learn more about the Gender Studies Project and our initiatives
- ★ Look up archived and the current issue of *Who I Am*, our newsletter

Humor

From *The Flame* by Joann Haugerud
Coalition on Women and Religion

Quote of the month

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"
~ Ida B. Wells in her autobiography
Crusade for Justice



Gender-Related Organizations at Messiah

- ◆ **Gender Concerns Committee:** This committee deals with the education, encouragement, and empowerment of students and employees concerning gender issues here on campus and beyond.
- ◆ **Healthy Reflections:** Deals with issues regarding distorted body image and its consequences.
- ◆ **I'm Worth Waiting For:** Connected with a local chapter of this national organization, *I'm Worth Waiting For* focuses on developing awareness and support behind abstinence.
- ◆ **Lifesavers:** Volunteer at local pregnancy centers and supports pro-life activities.
- ◆ **Men's Initiative Committee:** Men on this committee address issues of assessing and meeting male needs on Messiah campus.
- ◆ **One in Four:** Men have the opportunity to teach others about rape prevention and sexual violence. See the article on page 3
- ◆ **Unbroken:** Supports activities concerning issues regarding sexual and domestic violence. Volunteers are looking to set a regular schedule at the local domestic violence shelter.
- ◆ **Vocational Mentoring Program:** Female students in certain disciplines have the opportunity to meet with a mentor in their field and learn from real life experience.
- ◆ **Women's Caucus:** Deals with issues related to female faculty and staff here on campus.
- ◆ **Women Engineering Students:** Female engineering students have the opportunity to support each other through the rigors of the engineering major and their future after graduation through time together and with professional female engineers as mentors.
- ◆ **Women in Ministry Initiative:** Focused on women in the church, this organization supports women in ministry as well as informing others about the importance of women in these leadership positions.
- ◆ **Women's Rights Issues:** This group will take actions on behalf of women's rights internationally.
- ◆ **Women's Studies Minors:** Those with women's studies majors or similar interests share resources, support, and attend local activities related to women's studies.